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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 29, Iss. 4)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

Dress Renewal Parleys Go On "Slow But Sure"

Slow but steady progress toward completion of the negotiations for a renewed collective bargaining agreement covering the 80,000 dressmakers in the New York metropolitan area was being made early this month as the March 1 deadline for renewal approached. It is announced by Vice Pres. Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board.

The agreement, originally scheduled to expire on Jan. 31, was extended for one month until Feb. 28 in order to allow further time for achieving a settlement between the union and the employer associations. Last December Vice Pres. Hochman presented the union's demands for 14 modifications of the present contract. The counter-proposal by the employer associations called for the current agreement to be extended without change for one

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LOCAL 155 AWARDED 10-HOUR BOOSTS IN 120 BIG KNIT SHOPS

Thousands of time-workers employed by firms associated with the United Knitwear Manufacturers' League were awarded an increase of 10 cents an hour with comparable rises for piece-workers by Imperial Chairman Herman A. Gray. It is announced by Manager Louis Nelson of Local 155, Knitgoods Workers.

The increase, granted under the "escalator" clause of the current agreement, is retroactive to Jan. 20. It will be applied to workers employed in 120 of the larger knitgoods firms whose wage standards generally set the pace for the entire industry.

In explaining the reasons for handing down an award in the form of an increase in the hourly rate, Imperial Chairman Gray stated: "All workers, whatever be the nature of the particular task performed, are subject to the same burden when the prices of living necessities rise. It is, of course, true that in such a situation even the very highest-paid workers find it difficult to maintain their accustomed standards of living. But the real hardship is suffered by those with low earnings and it is they who should receive the greatest measure of relief."

The membership of Local 155 will

(Continued on Page 3)

Unity House Books Open For Season Reservations

Unity House reservations for the 1947 season may now be made at the Unity House office in ILGWU headquarters, Room 301, 1710 Broadway, New York City. The office is open on weekdays from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and on Saturdays from 9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Single reservations are available throughout the season. Couple reservations are open from July 26, and reservations for members with children are still open for the period after Aug. 15.

ORT Buys Building Through ILG's Gift

A cable from the World ORT Federation headquarters in Paris to Pres. Dubinsky last week reported that purchase of a central building for that organization had finally been completed. The cable reads:

"Najman and Kovarsky signed yesterday definite act purchasing International ORT Building as an expression to you our gratitude for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union contribution which gives new youth, through this purchase, help in its professional training."

Najman and Kovarsky recently were designated by the union as its trustees for this building. Earlier this month, the ILGWU General Executive Board had allotted \$45,000 to the ORT as its share of the union's 1946-47 relief fund.

AFL Vows to Dam Anti-Labor Tide; Membership Now Over 7,500,000

Empathetically reaffirming its determination to battle to the finish the flood of anti-labor proposals presented in Congress and the state legislatures, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, winding up its mid-winter session at Miami, Fla., last week, sharply censured the 48 restrictive measures which are reported to be awaiting consideration in Washington.

The highlights of the Executive Council meeting included the following developments:

1. Announcement that the AFL membership now totals 7,500,448, which is an all-time record, and a quarter of a million above the figure for September, 1946.
2. Adoption of a plan to reduce strikes by appointment of a three-member committee of top AFL leaders to work out formulae for the settlement of disputes.
3. Approval of a plan for compulsory retirement of members of the AFL headquarters staff at the age of 61. Pres. William Green explained that this would not apply to elected officers or organizers.
4. Unanimous opposition to compulsory military training in peacetime.
5. Reiteration of the AFL policy of unrelenting opposition to any proposed legislation, national or state, which would restrict the social and economic progress of organized American workers.

All ILG's Affiliates Gear for Elections

Union's 1st Post-War Convention Marks Vivid Display of Democracy in Action

Across the nation last week ILGWU units in major garment markets as well as in rural non-plant centers were preparing to hold the triennial elections at which they will choose their local officers and delegates to the ILGWU national convention scheduled to open in Cleveland, Ohio, on June 16.

In a letter to all ILGWU affiliates last month, Pres. Dubinsky set the election period between Feb. 19 and March 18 and specified May 1 as the final date for the return of the special ballot charts which are to record the names of the con-

vention delegates and alternates.

Many of the ILGWU affiliates have already held their nomination meetings and virtually all have set the dates for their elections. In New York, the eight locals of the Cloak and Dress Joint Board have fixed their election date, while in Los Angeles the members of Local 268 will vote on March 13 after nominating candidates on Feb. 25.

The Philadelphia wait and dressmakers are holding a series of nomination meetings in the period between Feb. 19 and Feb. 21. Montreal dressmakers will nominate candidates on Feb. 21 and go to the polls on March 1.

While local units in the "mini- or low-volume" districts are still busy arranging dates for nominations and elections, several of the miscellaneous locals in New York last week announced the completion of their election arrangements. Local 143, Ladies' Handwear Workers, will nominate candidates on Feb. 17 and vote on March 1; Local 20, Waterproof Garment Workers, will go to the polls on March 1; Local 59, Garment Clerks, will vote on March 4; Local 134, Knitgoods Workers, will cast their ballots on March 6; Local 22, Corset and Brassiere Workers, will nominate candidates on Feb. 25.

ILGWU conventions always stir keen interest as a concrete demonstration of union democracy at work, but the forthcoming convention has aroused special interest because it is the first to take place since the war came to an end. A review and evaluation of the period marking the union's transition from war to peace and the formulation of policies for the coming three-year term will be among the chief tasks confronting the delegates.

Toronto WLB Okays 4% Dress Increase

The Toronto dressmakers last month received the approval of the Regional War Labor Board for a wage increase of 4 per cent to all piece-workers. It is reported by J. Marks, business agent for the Toronto Dress Joint Council, which includes Local 12, Dressmakers, and Local 182, Dress Clothiers.

The price boost is retroactive to Aug. 1, 1946, the date on which the work-week was cut from 44 to 40 hours a week, and thus offers a wage which otherwise have been a loss in earnings. The "take-home" pay of the time-workers also remains unchanged in spite of its shortened work-week.

The application for the wage adjustment was filed jointly by the union and the Toronto Dress Manufacturers' Guild.



FROM CANADA TO MONTREAL

Six More Cloak Shops in Union Ranks

As the latest results of the current organizational drive, six more cloak shops in Montreal have been unionized and have subscribed to the terms of the union's general agreement with the manufacturers' association, it is announced by General Organizer Bernard Shane.

The six shops are as follows: Fashion Garment Co., Irving Mount Cash Co., Green Gables, Inc., Heller-Walters Co., Rosalyn Cloak Co. and Patel Garment Co. The introduction of union standards in these shops establishes conditions which bring substantial wage increases to many of the workers and a 40-hour week and reduced piece-rate for all.

Wilder Dress Signed Up

The Montreal dressmakers' campaign to gain 100 per cent organizational control of the garment shops in the North End section of the city is continuing in full swing. The latest firm to sign the standard association agreement is the Wilder Dress Co., thus giving its workers and their relatives up to per with those prevailing in other union shops.

Lucien Tremblay, former organizer for the AFL, has joined the ILGWU staff and has been assigned to the North End drive, where rapid progress is being made in organizing the unorganized in the cotton goods, children's wear and sportswear shops.

Out-of-Town Campaign

A vigorous organizational drive has likewise been launched in the out-of-town area, aiming at dress and cotton goods shops in Quebec City, St. Theres and other communities.

The response of these workers has been so hearty as to exceed the expectations of even the most optimistic of the organizers.

Jodoin Heads Council

Charles Jodoin, manager of Local 262, Dressmakers, was elected president of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council by acclamation last month.

The Montreal Trades and Labor Council, to which all AFL unions are affiliated, is the oldest body of organized labor in the city.

Embroiderers Laud Shane

As a tribute to his work as vice president of the Parity Commission, General Organizer Shane last month was presented with a portrait of himself painted by L. Fielding-Dowse, prominent Canadian artist. The presentation was made by Mrs. E. Lippman, manager of the Fashion Accessories Manufacturers' Association, on behalf of the embroidery industry.

Germain Levitan, executive director of the association, reviewed

Baltimore Jt. Bd. Mourns Joe Snyder, Its President

Joe Snyder, member of the ILOWU since 1909 and veteran leader of Local 4, Cloakmakers, Baltimore, Md., died last month at the age of 64.

For almost 40 years Snyder rendered active service to the labor movement of Baltimore to which he came as a young immigrant from Russia. At the time of his death he was president of the Baltimore Joint Board, president of Local 4, delegate to the Baltimore Federation of Labor and president of the ILOWU Health Fund in that city.

All women's garment shops in Baltimore closed for two hours on Jan. 10 to allow members to attend the funeral services. Snyder is survived by a wife and six children.

ILG Affiliates Purchase Own Buildings in Boston, Chicago, N.Y., St. Louis, Allentown



Secretary-Treasurer M. A. Goldstein and Vice Pres. Morris Blais (seated, center) hand over check marking union's purchase of new headquarters in Windy City as real estate and other ILGWU officials witness transaction.

The ILOWU General Executive Board, at its quarterly meeting in New York last month, heard reports on the purchase of five buildings within recent months by union affiliates in Boston, Chicago, New York, St. Louis and Allentown, Pa.

This month details of the purchase of the buildings in Boston and Chicago were made known. They revealed that the Chicago building, a six-story structure, cost \$150,000; the eight-story Boston building was purchased at the price of \$115,000.

The building bought by the Chicago Joint Board is a six-story structure costing \$150,000 and located at 15 South Market St. in the Loop section of the city, according to Vice Pres. Morris Blais. It has a frontage of 79 feet and a depth of 90 feet. The purchase of the building will be defrayed from special fund raised by the Chicago ILOWU membership to which \$70,000 has already been contributed. Renovations are now under way.

In Boston the building, jointly purchased by the Northeast Department and the Boston Joint Board, is located at 23 Harrison Ave. It is an 8-story structure, costing \$115,000. According to Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, manager of the Boston Joint Board, and Vice Pres. David Ginsberg, director of the Northeast Department, it is planned to have the union make use of only three floors at the outset, with the remainder of the building rented out until such time as the union needs

more space for expansion purposes. Although all the union's administrative offices will eventually be housed in the structure, the first phase of the project will consist of a medical clinic, modeled after the Union Health Center in New York and financed by the health funds provided by the Boston ILOWU contracts.

The clinic, occupying all three floors, will be equipped at a cost of \$75,000 and will be staffed by 10 doctors and a proportionate number of nurses.

"It is a source of extreme satisfaction to us to know that this magnificent project, bringing free medical care to thousands of garment workers in Boston and the surrounding area, has been made possible chiefly through the pooling of the efforts of two ILOWU affiliates. Neither one alone could have accomplished this feat singly," declared a joint statement by Kramer and Ginsberg.

"It is our hope that this project will serve as a further illustration of what can be accomplished through the combined efforts of workers whose welfare, in the final analysis, is the basic wealth of the nation and transcends geographic and jurisdictional demarcations."

Joining with Kramer and Ginsberg in the final stages of negotiations were Field Supervisor Jack Halperin, Welfare Supervisor William E. Barker, and Secretary of the ILOWU health fund in Boston and vicinity.

L.A. ILG Gains Foothold in Belt, Swim-Suit Industries

Nearly 400 more workers employed in 11 shops were brought under union protection last month as the Southern California organizational campaign, following its break-through into the belt industry, swept into the bathing suit field by signing a

contract with the Kall-Pott plant, Long Beach. Coast shops included five additional plants signed up in the sportswear organizational campaign jointly conducted by Local 266, the Pacific Coast Office, and the Southern California Out-of-Town Department and three additional firms organized by the Los Angeles Dress Joint Board drive.

In the sportswear campaign out of town, the union won an agreement, effective on March 1, at the Matt Adler shop, Pomona, covering 25 workers, according to Organizer Harry Scott, out-of-town director. In Los Angeles contracts effective on Feb. 24, were signed with the Silver Sportswear Co. and the Kall Pott shop, employing 43 and 25 workers, respectively, according to Organizer Ed Benedict, director of the in-town drive.

Other agreements brought wage increases to the 25 employees of the La Vida plant, shirt manufacturers, 20 workers at Wallace, Ltd., makers of high-class sportswear and sport shirts, and 75 workers at Link of California, a cotton dress firm. The latter agreement is retroactive to Jan. 1.

The pacts signed by the Los Angeles Dress Joint Board included the Ken Stuberland, the Rosie Parker and the Will Kopp shops, employing a total of 75 workers, according to Business Agent Ida Patalis, chairman of the dress organization department.

Meanwhile, the union has filed an application for a National Labor Relations Board election at Morse & Morse, lingerie manufacturers, where nearly all of the 135 employees have already signed ILG membership cards.

Out-of-Town Setback

In other areas under the jurisdiction of the Southern California Out-of-Town Department, a sudden drop in the amount of work temporarily impeded organizational efforts, and a survey was being conducted to obtain information on shops operating in Monterey Park, Baldwin Park, South Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale, where the union has not yet penetrated.

The ILOWU suffered a disappointment at Taylors Slacks of Hollywood, located in Redlands, Calif., when the firm went out of business after the union had spent weeks in completely organizing it. Closing of the firm was legitimate and not an effort to escape unionization, stated Organizer Scott.

Local 266 Wage Demands

Realizing their determination to obtain the wage increase demands recently rejected by the Los Angeles manufacturers, the entire membership of Local 266, Sportswear

Workers, turned out at three group shop meetings to plan next steps.

At each of the meetings a resolution was adopted directing the union administration to insist on the 15 to 20 per cent increase demands. A committee representing each shop was elected to serve on a board to plan the strategy for winning the raise.

In the meantime, the workers in many Local 266 shops have refused to work on unsettled garments. Although the employers charge that this is a violation of the contract provisions which prohibit stoppages, the union representatives point out that this accusation is groundless since the agreement stipulates that members are not required to work on unsettled garments.

Elections Next Month

The Local 266 officers and convention delegates will be chosen in elections scheduled to take place on March 15. Nominations will be made on Feb. 20.

Reward for Doing a Big Wartime Bit



In recognition of outstanding civilian aid to Allied war effort, Mrs. Annette Orsini, mother of Raymond Orsini, business agent of Local 91, and Louise Orsini, price adjuster of Dress Joint Board, receive medal from Sir Francis Evans, British Consul General in New York.

Brotherhood Week Hailed by Truman

American Brotherhood Week, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, will be observed for the 15th year during the week of Feb. 16-23.

In accepting the honorary chairmanship of Brotherhood Week, Pres. Truman declared:

"Our own land can make no greater contribution to this troubled world than to establish brotherhood as the rule of life among all our citizens of every religion, race or national origin. Brotherhood—live it, believe it, support it—must be the resolve that governs our relations with one another. We cannot hope to command brotherhood abroad unless we practice it at home."

"Democracy rests upon brotherhood, justice, amity, understanding and cooperation among Protestants, Catholics and Jews throughout our nation are cornerstones of democracy, even as the requirements of brotherhood. With them we can maintain our national unity and keep up the teamwork needed in peace as in war."

"I, therefore, join heartily with the National Conference of Christians and Jews and with all forces of good will in our country in commending nation-wide observance of American Brotherhood Week, Feb. 16-23, 1947."

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B'klyn Corset's Picket Line Undaunted by Zero Busts

Production at the four plants of the Brooklyn Corset Co., manufacturers of the Quest-Shoon Mark brassiere, has been sharply curtailed as the result of ILGWU picketing which began more than three weeks ago when the firm discharged nine workers and locked out 34 more because of their union activities.

The lock-out was immediately followed by the declaration of a strike and a militant picket line has been maintained at all four plants throughout the ensuing period despite the near-zero weather, according to Manager Abraham Snyder of Local 32, Corset and Brassiere Workers.

The union has filed charges of unfair labor practices against the firm with the National Labor Relations Board. It has prepared evidence showing that the Padilio brothers, operators of the \$1,000,000 Brooklyn Corset Co., have resisted unionization efforts for the past five years through the exercise of fraudulent labor policies that culminated in the arbitrary discharges which led to the present strike.

According to the workers, the Brooklyn Corset management has followed a consistent policy of low wages, inaccurate overtime computations, favoritism, lack of job security and general disrespect for its workers. As against the firm's allegation that the discharged employees were fired for showing a low production record, the facts indicate that the dismissed girls had been given no previous warning of poor output. Moreover, there is definite proof that these workers were among the best paid and most experienced members of the firm's working force.

The company is making a desperate attempt to continue production with non-union workers. It is using "scab" girls and all the other "soft-shoe" techniques, including a promise of wage increases, in order to counteract the effects of the picket line.

However, the picketing is continuing with undiminished enthusiasm, according to Manager Snyder. Business Agent Harry Shugart, who is in immediate charge of the campaign, reports that the workers are determined to establish their democratic rights through union recognition in all the plants of the Brooklyn Corset Co.

Local 66 Items in Cooper Union Show

Samples of embroidery made by members of Local 66, Embroidery Workers, are being used to illustrate modern embroidery techniques as part of an exhibit on display at the Cooper Union Museum of the Decorative Art, Astor Place and Fourth Ave., New York City.

The exhibit, entitled "Stitches in Time: An Exhibition of Embroideries and Needle Work Techniques," will be open to the public through April 12. Museum hours are from 10 a. m. to 5 P. M., Monday through Saturday.

The methods used in making various kinds of embroidery stitches are shown on step-by-step charts. However, the main portion of the exhibit is devoted to actual examples of work done during various periods and in various lands, from Coptic embroidery in the fifth century to modern Fifth Avenue designs. Prints and drawings taken from the Museum's collection show women busy at their needle-work in past centuries, as part of the assemblage of material illustrating techniques and sources of design.

Today 39 per cent of America's farms are operated by tenants compared with less than 30 per cent 50 years ago, according to a Twentieth Century Fund survey. Over 2,000,000 tenant farmers operate almost 30 per cent of the farm land in the nation.

ILG AUDITOR WRITES ON UNION FINANCING

The background and special characteristics of trade union accounting is the subject of an article by Siemon L. Hamburger, ILGWU general auditor, in the December 1946, issue of "The Accounting Program," published by the Accounting Society of the School of Business and Civic Administration of the College of the City of New York.

The article, surveying the broad financial aspects of trade union structure, offers a detailed discussion of membership procedures, dues records and general union records. It also describes financial functions of the district, council, joint boards and central office.

According to Hamburger, "a proper system of accounting and auditing procedure . . . cannot be set up effectively unless there is a full and proper understanding of the functions, structure and problems of the organization in question."

Comparing the relative merits of independent auditors and internal auditors, Hamburger states that with equal education, training and integrity, a well-trained internal auditor, under normal conditions, could do a better job because of his understanding of the organization. The article then suggests the kind of experience and training that will produce a good internal union auditor.

AFL, ILG Heads Endorse ORT Overseas Program

Declaring that "the need for rehabilitation through training among the uprooted remnants of the Jewish people in Europe and other parts of the world is today more compelling and more urgent than ever before,"

ILGWU's abiding interest in the work of the ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) of Labor in particular—has made this statement in connection with the forthcoming annual dinner which the ORT will hold on Feb. 19 at the Waldorf Astoria, New York City.

It was announced that William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, would be the guest of honor at the dinner.

"The recognition of the ORT's mission and its significance as a constructive force has reached far beyond the limits of the Jewish community," Pres. Dubinsky declared.

Louis E. Graham, chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, to be read into the record in connection with the lower chamber's hearings on bills to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Outlook Seems to be Optimistic



Vice Pres. Charles Kreidler, manager of Local 25, Bloomers, greeted by officers and shop chairmen at recent conference on union's problems and prospects.

Jewish Labor Body Lauded For 'Unswerving Idealism'

In a message to over 500 delegates attending the eighth national conference of the Jewish Labor Committee of America at Atlantic City, N. J., Pres. Dubinsky declared that "in the most trying and confusing moments of the past dozen years, the Jewish Labor Committee has never sur-

rendered any of its principles, has never apostrophized its principles and has never sold its concept of social service and social conscience."

The ILGWU chief's message was transmitted by telephone from Miami, Fla. where he was attending the quarterly meeting of the AFL Executive Council, after Adolph Gold, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, extended the interest and cooperation of the ILGWU in the far-flung national and international activity of the Jewish Labor

Committee. Following his five-minute talk, Pres. Dubinsky presented to the audience William Green, AFL president, who likewise spoke from Miami and was given a spontaneous ovation by the conference delegates before and after his remarks.

In his message to the JLC conference, Pres. Dubinsky said: "Relief to our brothers across the seas and combating intolerance and anti-Semitism at home have been our chief tasks in the Jewish Labor Committee from the day it was formed. In later years, two other great missions were added to its roll of achievements—the saving of the lives of outstanding labor leaders from the murderous clutches of Nazism and Fascism, and the deliverance of the uprooted thousands who are wasting their lives and energies on the blood-soaked soil of Germany. The Jewish Labor Committee runs magnificently to meet these sacred obligations."

"The most precious function, in my estimation, of the Jewish Labor Committee is the fact that it represents in all its activities, fully and without deviation, the ideals, traditions and heritage of our labor movement. Speaking for the ILGWU, I place the greatest emphasis on this all-important fact—that in the most trying and confusing moments of the past dozen years, the Jewish Labor Committee has never surrendered any of its principles, has never apostrophized its principles, and has never sold its concept of social service and social conscience."

"Finally, I cannot escape a feeling of pride in observing that the Jewish Labor Committee has won for itself genuine and warm recognition from that great body of American labor—the American Federation of Labor. Let me mention in this connection that only a few months ago the AFL convention passed unanimously a resolution, sponsored by the ILGWU, calling on the American Federation to pay its dues to the uprooted victims of the war by allowing immigration on the extra quotas not utilized during the war, in order to admit as many displaced persons as quickly as possible."

Local 155 Awarded 10c-Hour Boosts in 120 Big Knit Shops

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elect officers and ILGWU convention delegates on March 6. Polling places will be open from 7:30 A. M. to 7:30 P. M. at the following locations:

Rand School, 7 East 13th St., Manhattan.

Imperial Palace, 290 Broadway, Brooklyn.

Members working in New Jersey and other places outside New York City will receive further details regarding their shop chairmen.

"Hail to the Chief"—Right from the Heart



Louis Stulberger, newly elected manager of Local 62, Undergarment Workers, is enthusiastically welcomed by shop chairmen at meeting in Webster Hall on Feb. 8.

N. Y. DRESSMAKERS

DRESS JOINT BOARD

4 Jt. Bd. Chiefs Urge Full Voters' Turnout

Managers of the four locals affiliated with the New York Dress Joint Board this month issued appeals to their memberships to turn out in full force for their appointed election days to determine, by way of ballot-box democracy, the kind of local administrations they desire for the coming three-year term. Also to be elected are delegates to the 1947 Convention of the ILGWU which will open in Cleveland on June 16.

Local 10, Cutters, will vote on March 15; Local 22, Dressmakers, on Feb. 20; Local 60, Pressers, on Feb. 18; and Local 89, Italian Dressmakers, on Feb. 26.

LOCAL 22 RULES ON VOTING PROCEDURES LOCAL 60 URGES ALL TO VOTE ON FEB. 18

Along with the election appeal it issued last week, the executive board of Local 22, Dressmakers, has released directions on voting procedure. Members were told that they will be able to vote either for individual candidates or for all the candidates of a group by making a single cross in the circle under the name of the group. In the latter case, no other markings are to appear on the ballot if it is to be valid.

In the former case, crosses are to be entered in the boxes next to each group candidate.

In no case is a member to vote for more than one secretary-manager, 25 executive board members, 25 business agents and 25 convention delegates. Any ballot which contains votes for more than this number of candidates will be declared spoiled and the vote will be lost.

In order to vote, Local 22 members will be required to present their union books, the cover of which must bear the member's personal signature already written in ink.

The elections of Local 60, Dress Pressers, scheduled for Feb. 18, will name the manager, chairman, executive board members and delegates to the ILGWU Convention.

The Local 60 election will be held at Christ Church, 344 West 36th St., New York City.

The polls will be open from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M.

In an appeal to all Local 60 members to exercise their democratic rights by turning out in full force to vote, Manager Max Cohen stressed the stake of each individual member in the outcome of the election. "The officers that will be chosen in this election," he declared, "will be charged with the duty of upholding the interests of the pressers during a period in which the threat to labor's hard-won gains will be exploited by selfish interests for the advancement of their particular aims at the expense of the workers."

The will of the membership must be stated clearly, he said, pointing out that this can be accomplished by a full turnout for the election.

BOROUGH PARK ADDED 22 SHOPS LAST YEAR

Year-end reports from the branch shops operated by the New York Dress Joint Board in the edifying districts of the city indicate that substantial organizational gains were achieved during 1946. In addition to the report on the Borough District already published, details of the work of the Borough Park District have been released by the Dress Joint Board.

Submitted by Manager John A. Riggio, the report on Borough Park, which also covers the Bessborough area, shows that this office now controls 121 shops as compared to 99 shops on Dec. 31, 1945. Through the 22 new shops, the membership has correspondingly increased from 2,863 to 3,258.

These figures reflect the constant vigilance maintained by the union staff in the district as it carries on the double task of administering union controls in the organized shops and extending such controls to new shops in their territory.

Other figures cited in the Borough Park report show that the district collected the sum of \$127,861 as dues and assessments in behalf of Locals 22, 60 and 89.

For the ILGWU 1946 Relief Fund it turned in \$5,946 which was contributed during a slack season and is therefore only part of the total contribution which will be forthcoming from the Borough Park membership.

In submitting his report, Manager Riggio stated: "I am happy to report that the membership of our district is comprised of workers who are fully aware of the stake they have in establishing the strength of their union. They have responded to all appeals of their union with enthusiasm and loyalty. In this manner, they have been especially helpful in the campaign by means of which we have been able to search out and bring under control the non-union shops which establish themselves in our territory."

The Borough Park union staff includes Meyer Anderman, Anthony Garofalo and Salvatore Milazzo with Louis Muccardi and Yolanda Varrichio in charge of the finance department.

become necessary, every effort is being made by union negotiators to avoid such a contingency and to reach a settlement through traditional collective bargaining procedure.

Only Tea—But Lots of Fun Goes With It



Refreshments are served at Club 22 social sessions, held every Wednesday night at dressmakers' union headquarters. Left to right, Juanette Smith, Virginia Gonzalez, Verna Lydell, Elsie Otero.

Local 22 Election Day

Thursday, Feb. 20

Executive Board Appeal

GREETINGS: This Thursday, Feb. 20, is election day in our local. On that day it is your responsibility as a union member to go to the polling place to exercise your democratic right to vote for those candidates who, in your opinion, are best qualified to administer the affairs of our union for the next three years.

It is your duty to vote. If you fail to vote, you will be doing an injustice not only to your organization but to yourself and your family. You must not fail in your obligation.

This is a crucial time for our union. Difficult problems confront the workers on the economic and political fields. We are in the midst of negotiating a new agreement. The incoming administration will have to take effective steps to maintain full employment and safeguard our earnings in the post-war period. The incoming administration will also have to combat the efforts of the reactionaries to cripple the trade unions and undo the achievements of the New Deal.

You must, therefore, make certain that the administration you elect will measure up to these responsibilities.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that our entire membership, 26,000 strong, be united solidly behind the leaders it will choose this Thursday. We must rally to our union. A big vote in the local elections will forcefully demonstrate your solidarity. It will be a demonstration of your intelligent interest in the problems that affect us all. It will be an unmistakable expression of your determination to give to the incoming administration your undivided support.

Your union vote is a precious possession. Do not waste it. Exercise this possession by casting your vote on Feb. 20.

Come to the polls with your union book and, by your ballot, show that you are aware of the great issues that face our union.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 22, ILGWU
Charles S. Zimmerman, Secretary-Manager.
Israel Brenkow, Chairman.

POLLING PLACES
Open from 8 A.M.
to 7 P.M.

1. Office, 222 West 40th St.
2. Christ Church, 344 West 36th St.
3. Manhattan Center, 34th St. and Eighth Ave.
4. United Health Center, 215 7th Ave. near 25th St.
5. Borough Park Office, 3510 14th Ave., Brooklyn.
6. Williamsburg Office, 2 Sumner Ave., Brooklyn.
7. Melrose Chateau, 1810 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn.
8. Harlem Office, 1814 Third Ave.
9. Bronx Office, 595 East Tremont Ave.

N. Y. Dress Institute Shows New CARE Clothing Packages

A new blanket package for Europe was introduced last month by CARE at a special conference at the New York Dress Institute, with which the Dress Joint Board is affiliated.

The CARE blanket packages, and the designs for the clothing displayed, are now available for prompt delivery in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the American, British and French Zones of Germany and all Berlin.

Each blanket package contains two all-virgin wool blankets. These blankets are army surplus, some of which are new. They are all re-conditioned and each blanket weighs three and three-quarter pounds. They are readily converted

into clothing. Due to the shortage of sewing materials abroad, each parcel contains a pair of scissors, a package of needles, four spools of thread, safety pins and a thimble. In addition, there are two pairs of composition heels and soles, with nails included. The total cost of this package is \$10.

Orders for these packages can be sent, with check or money order for \$10 for each package, to CARE, 30 Broad St., New York 4, N. Y.

Local 22 Opens Class in Written, Spoken English

Courses in written and spoken English are about to start for members of Local 22, Dressmakers. There will be a beginners' group, scheduled to meet on Mondays from 8 to 8 P.M., and an advanced class on Wednesdays from 8 to 8 P.M.

For further details members are urged to inquire at the Local 22 educational department, Room 617, 218 West 40th St.

Dress Talks 'Slow But Sure'

(Continued from Page 1)

year was turned down by union negotiators.

While substantial agreement has been reached on several of the union's requested changes, others are still at issue and conferences scheduled for the remaining weeks of February will be devoted to a determined effort to reach agreement before the deadline date.

Union spokesmen have stressed

the need for a 20 per cent cost-of-living increase. They have also requested the establishment of a retirement fund and resumption of payments to the New York Dress Institute.

Notice has been presented to government agencies informing them that a labor dispute has arisen in the New York women's dress market. While this step would clear the way for an interruption of work in the market if that should

ILGWU Foster-Mothers of French War Orphan



Here are the 17 finishers in the Max Weisen shop, New York City, who have banded together to support Georges Gross whose parents were killed by the Nazis.

INTERNATIONAL

HARRY WANDER, MANAGER,
EASTERN OUT-OF-TOWN DEPT.

Rathgeb Workers Find Out ILG Is Only Sure Safeguard

The workers at the Rathgeb Knitting Mills, Highland, N. Y., are the latest to realize that the only true and durable protection for wage-earners is to be found in affiliation with a union. They have discovered, through bitter and disillusioning experience, that the benevolence of employers, no matter how generous they may appear to be, is not enough to rely upon. Moreover, they have learned that one of the major advantages of unionism is that it allows workers to retain their self-respect and not be forced to depend on favors that can be revoked at will.

All of this was revealed last month when the Rathgeb workers, who for two years had chosen to ignore the union's message, appeared at ILGWU headquarters in the Hudson Valley District and confessed to Manager Mott Goodman that his predictions had been accurate. They told him that their employer, without the least warning in advance, had announced a wage cut. The beginning of the year, no resentful were the workers to retain their self-respect and not be forced to depend on favors that can be revoked at will.

If the Rathgeb workers needed further evidence of their exposed position outside of a union, they received it promptly the next morning when Irving Rathgeb, the president of the firm, summoned his entire force and denounced them as traitors. He told them that they had gone to union headquarters with their grievances. To punish them—as well as to intimidate them—he posted a notice on the bulletin board announcing that the hospital-

ization benefits, granted several months previously, were discontinued.

He followed up this drastic penalty with a threat that the plant, which manufactures men's and boys' sweaters, would be shut down if the workers persisted in demanding that the ILGWU serve as their collective bargaining agency.

However, as if aware that he could no longer count on the union's appeal with such brutal measures, the president adopted a more beguiling approach the following day. He announced that if the Rathgeb workers would turn their backs on the union he would set up a profit-sharing plan that would bring them 20 per cent of the firm's annual earnings. In addition, he promised vacations with pay for all workers in the plant.

But the Rathgeb workers are evidently no longer interested in employer propositions that may be here today and gone tomorrow. They are determined to retain their position in the ILGWU as the only effective means of safeguarding and improving their wage and welfare conditions.

Manager Goodman has already taken the necessary steps and is awaiting the firm's reply to his invitation to confer with him as the representative of the majority of the Rathgeb employees.

Cotton Ball's Arrangements Crew



Members of Locals 220 and 166 who helped put over Newark ILGWU's annual Cotton Ball included (top row, left to right) Marie Sarcuse, Maria Rosamella, Rose Inferio, Caroline Petrillo, Anna Matlin. (Middle row) Ray Pellegrino, Mary Saunders, Jane Kuchler, Virgil Spila. (Bottom row) Kathryn Babbitts, Josephine Quattrone, Maria Declaire, Maria Buonarba, Anna Langan. (See story)

Corona Corset's 1st Pact Ups Pay 15%, Cuts Hrs.

The Corona Corset Co., Corona, L. I., has signed up with the union after a four-week organizational campaign. It is announced by Jack Grossman, manager of the Long Island and Staten Island district.

The agreement "provides for a general 15 per cent increase, a reduction of the work-week from 40 hours to 37½, six and one-half cents hourly with pay and a 4½ per cent health and vacation fund. The firm employs 30 workers.

Molly Rose Joins Ass'n, Grants 'All Union Terms'

The Molly Rose Co., Lynbrook, N. Y., has joined the United Dress Contractors' Association, thus automatically extending to its 25 workers the terms of the standard union agreement that that employer's group. It is announced by Manager Salvatore Nindo. The Molly Rose workers are now members of Local 145, Passaic.

Rose Pesotta Lectures To Union City Members

Recently returned from an extensive tour of Europe, Rose Pesotta, member of Local 25, Dreamakers, and former vice president of the ILGWU, delivered a lecture on her experiences abroad at an educational meeting of Locals 148 and 152, Union City, N. J., on Feb. 12.

Comparing the living standards of American and European workers, particularly those engaged in garment production, she urged increased aid by American labor organizations to workers overseas.

All EOT Affiliates Set For Officers' Elections

Locals in all sections of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department are setting dates for the nomination of officers and delegates to the ILGWU convention. Among those who have already scheduled nomination meetings are Local 197, Ozone Park, L. I.—Feb. 18; Local 154, Staten Island—Feb. 24; Local 153, Mount Vernon, N. Y.—March 8.

Locals 220 and 166 Present Their 11th Annual Cotton Ball

The 11th annual Cotton Ball of Newark, N. J., sponsored by Local 220 in conjunction with Local 166, was held on Feb. 7 with over 700 members and friends of the ILGWU attending the event.

According to Manager Sadie Reich of Local 220 and Manager Herman Struss of Local 166, the Cotton Ball serves to commemorate the union's victorious 10-week strike against the New Jersey Washable Dress Contractors' Association—a triumph which firmly established the ILGWU in the children's dress industry of the state.

Many union and community leaders attended the affair, including Vice Pres. Harry Wander, director of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, and Mayor Vincent J. Murphy of Newark.

Lipshar Dress Gets EOT's Helping Hand

When the newly established Lipshar Dress Co., New Haven, Conn., began operations early this month but could not get into full stride because of a shortage of skilled workers, the firm's only recourse was to appeal to the union for aid. Through the good offices of Jacob L. Bagach, ILGWU manager in Connecticut, the problem was solved in short order.

According to Eastern Out-of-Town Department officers, the incident, which has been duplicated on frequent occasions, has a twofold significance. First, it demonstrates anew that the workers have accepted the ILGWU as their guide and protector. Second, it has assured that it will observe full union standards. Secondly, it is regarded as proof that the ILGWU, after many years of struggle, has become the key factor in stabilizing the garment industry, and that this contribution is recognized by an increasing number of employers.

TODAY and TOMORROW

By LUIGI ANTONINI
First Vice President, ILGWU

The preliminary phases of the Local 89 election have been completed. Amendments to the by-laws have been acted on. An examination and objection committee has been designated and it has faithfully rendered the service for which it was set up. All candidates have been examined and their qualifications for the union's constitution and by-laws have been reached which will allow the names of even those persons who have not fully read the requirements to appear on the ballot.

The constitutional requirements setting forth the conditions of candidacy apply to all persons who enter the electoral contest. But they have not been held down as a means for excluding anyone from the contest. Quite the contrary, they are guarantees to the membership that those finally elected will have

the necessary background and training and organizational support to enable them to serve in the most effective manner.

Whereas on this page appears the substance of the first Examination and Objections Committee which allowed the candidates of a number of persons not fully meeting the required conditions. This action by the committee is glowing tribute to the sound judgment of the Local 89 membership, which, the committee must have felt, will readily be able to discriminate properly between those who are fit to hold union office and those who are unfit.

Where democracy functions the people know how to choose. Extraneous issues, rumors, selfish interests—all these things fall by the wayside when the individual member consults with his conscience in marking the ballot. Once again, this year, the members of Local 89 will confirm their strong faith in democracy by going to the polls in overwhelming numbers.

At stake is the future welfare of the industry in which they earn their livelihood, the continued

strength of our great ILGWU which stands for a bold and brave protection of the interests of the garment workers, the ever-growing respect which Local 89, the greatest Italian-American labor organization in the country, has earned for workers of Italian extraction.

The right to vote is also the duty to vote. I urge all members to come to the polls early and to vote carefully. Everyone to the polls on Feb. 28!

Local 89's \$10,000 'Dimes' Still Rising

With a number of collection lists still outstanding, a preliminary tally of donations last week by members of Local 89, Italian Dreamakers, of the National Foundation for Infants' Paralysis showed that \$10,185 had been contributed during the annual "March of Dimes" drive.

The final tally is expected to increase this amount by a considerable

Local 89 Members Cast Ballots Feb. 26

The members of Local 89, Italian Dreamakers, will go to the union polls on Feb. 26 to elect a full slate of local officers and delegates to the coming ILGWU Convention. A report of the local's Examination and Objections Committee made on Feb. 11 shows that the present administration, represented by "The Voice of 89 League," is presenting a full slate of candidates.

The committee noted and accepted the decision of the Local 89 executive board to give group placement on the ballot to the so-called "rank-and-file group" in spite of a wide margin, demonstrating once more the traditional generosity of Local 89 in the battle against infantile paralysis.

the fact that this particular slate fails to meet the provision of the ILGWU Constitution which requires presentation of a candidate in single effort to be filed at the election and candidates for at least one-third of the number of persons to be elected.

In the same manner, the candidacy of Frances Richards was also presented, despite her failure to meet the prescribed requirements, with the committee noting that similar action had been taken in her case in 1944. The committee made it clear that it desired the membership to be the final judges in the election.

Again relying fully on the democratic spirit and judgment of the Local 89 membership, the committee allowed the candidacy of Giuseppe Providenti, although it was alleged that he had applied for employment directly to the manufacturers' associations when he had the intention of resigning his union membership.

Finally, in accordance with the provisions of the ILGWU Constitution, the committee, declared as elected all members of the "rank-and-file group" who had been named in "The Voice of 89 League." Their names will nevertheless appear on the ballot with the notation, "without opposition," so that the members may be informed of this fact.

Local 102 Quietest Faces Grayson-Robinson Team

The backsliding team of Local 102, Clean and Dress Drivers, is back on the courts after a five-year wartime lay-off. The team will open its season on the evening of Feb. 15 when it will face the Grayson-Robinson team of Local 99. Garment Clerks, in the gymnasium of the Central Hudson Trades High School, West 24th St., between 7th and 8th Aves. A dance will follow the game.

MAIN DISTRICT

Joint Board Office,
222 West 40th St.,
Manhattan Center,
44th St. and 8th Ave.
Union Health Center,
275 Seventh Ave.
Christ Church,
244 West 36th St.

BROOKLYN PARK AND

BENSONHURST DISTRICT
District Office,
3310 14th Ave., Brooklyn.

BRONX DISTRICT

District Office,
508 East Tremont Ave.

HARLEM DISTRICT

District Office,
1914 Third Ave.

WILLIAMSBURG DISTRICT

District Office,
2 Sumner Ave., Brooklyn.

BROWNVILLE DISTRICT

District Office,
1830 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn.

Local 89 Polling Places

Open from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

STEIN

going competitive again. Even in assertion, the sheer volume of various factors in industry in case a rabid desire to win the

ness of the economy. The kind of selling job that will have to be done is indicated in the plaintive appeal voiced last month by Joseph Kosciniak, president of the National Association of Wholesalers, who said: "The wholesaler's major function is selling, but a very important part of this salesmanship is selling his role in the nation's economy to the consuming public. The idea of the wholesaler as a parasite who adds to the cost of a product must be eradicated, and the true story of his part in our economy must be told."

Finally, Adnan Gimbel, president of Saks-Fifth Ave., last month warned that only by utilizing American designing talent would it be possible to avoid the cut-throat competition arising from copying Paris designs. He went on to express the opinion that the peak in the French fashion industry has been reached in women's wear and that "we have to find a way to make women buy more than they need."

The rising tide of competition has thus far caused no serious break in the financial status of the women's apparel industry. On the contrary, a slow but steady rise in prices is occurring, with no marked resistance on the part of the consumer since in return is being given a greater variety of garments to choose from and, generally, better-quality products.



Gen. Robert E. Wood, chairman of Sears, Roebuck & Co., sees "no signs of abatement" in the sales of good goods but finds it reasonable to believe that "as supply overtakes demand, line by line, prices will drop, real competition for sales will be fiercer and weaker and more inefficient retailers may suffer some losses."

In one sphere, at least, genuine competition is already rampant. It is occurring not so much within one range of activity as at the point where the textile and apparel industries meet. In general, it is noted in the apparel industry that higher priced lines are still able to get fabrics more readily than the lower and moderately priced lines.

But in spite of expected breaks in the rayon and cotton markets, these fabrics are now some 25 to 30 per cent above their late OPA ceilings.

Leo C. Saffir, president of Rabbar Robes, and Max J. Lovell, director of the House Dress Institute, last week charged that the price of cotton-fabricated cloth does not reflect the break in the cotton market. Apparently, the thousands of competitors are not always panned up along the line to the consumer.

Perhaps we ought to get it into our heads that competitors have a blood brother called monopoly, and that both bear close watching.



TALES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC.
By James A. Michener. The Macmillan Co. \$1.

CHILDREN OF VIENNA. By Robert Neumann. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.75.

The physical impacts of the war have already been pretty well recorded by a veritable army of writers who eloquently or otherwise have depicted in detail the sound and fury of bombings and bombings. But the publishers are detecting a sharp popular revulsion to this kind of material and the book lists no longer feature the kind of war narratives which were best sellers in the days when every American family had its personal representative in the conflict.

This is a sad state of affairs if it signifies that the American people are closing their eyes to the horror that may be again unless we look it straight in the face. The war did



some strange and ugly things to men's bodies and minds, leaving deep scars and burning scars, a symbol of a terror that cries out to be remembered. We simply do not dare to allow ourselves to forget.

But there are some things that will not let themselves be forgotten. To these, it is to be hoped, writers will return again and again as the flush of immediacy wears off and the more subtle results of the organic violence that is war become clearer by being sifted through the remembrance of years.

James A. Michener has done a powerful job of revealing what the war in the Pacific was like. Into the vast spaces of that war theater we throw thousands of men from the mid-regions of America who had never before seen the ocean. We pumped them full of nerve, taught them the use of arms, loaded them with love of country and then cast them away on speck-sized islands, smack up against a culture extraneous removed from that which they knew at home.

Michener's 19 tales are varied facets of the conflict, each one is often profound, always well told and enthralling depictions of American character, in terms of individual need, desire, longing and loneliness, trying to sink new roots in the strange environment of the jungles and islands of the Pacific. Hardly a rifle shot is heard in these pages. But the war is there in the agony of waiting, the anxiety for food, the craving for love and companionship, the desolation of beauty and the splashdown blow by which the men live off steam.

But where Michener deals with the war's effect on peace, Robert Neumann is primarily concerned with its distortion of time. It made men prematurely old, but the real measure of his horror was that it shapely thrust children into a maturity beyond their years.

"Children of Vienna" tells of a half-dozen kids, the backwash of the extermination camps, who have taken possession of a cellar with an functioning toilet which has somehow escaped the destruction

New York

By MAX PRESS

O city of merciless laughter,
City of life's dark tide,
Where old men mourn their stolen youth

And young men flout their pride—
When will I snare within a song
The clanging bells that toll
The music of your myriad heart,
The essence of your soul?

O city of secret paths,
City of shrieking sin,
Where the strongest hands grow
Stiff

And weakest hands can win—
When will I capture your rhythm,
The core of that lawless note
That rumbles in your boundless heart,
That catches in your throat?

O city of granite towers,
City where men have bled,
Where the brightest eyes grow
Tear-wet

And duldest lips burn red—
When will I see through the darkness
Your spirit's inner light,
And sense the dark grief of your soul

Among the lamps of night.

that has buried it beneath the all-embracing rubble.

In the vortex of violence that has leveled every customary restraint, these children have learned to steel, to fight to the death, to lie and to practice whatever vices are necessary for survival in a world that has forgotten its children.

The sound of rifles is not heard in these pages either. Instead, there is a moving transcription of the new breed of infamy—the talk of death, its classifications of disease symptoms, its subterfuge to delay the trip to the gas chambers. Terrible enough when told by adults, these prescriptions for survival become overwhelming when uttered by children.

These are the children of Europe, the inheritors of the brave new world. We must remember them and Neumann's bitterly fascinating story will help us to do so. We cannot choose to ignore the fate of these children, for when they grow up they will either preserve the peace or invite anew the death they have so recently escaped.



WOMEN

SUSAN WHITE

How long will it be before the mothers of this country start bringing some real pressure to bear upon the lawmakers to stop the rising tide of juvenile crime? We cannot tell how soon they will do so, but it is obvious from all present indications that no honest effort will be made to disarm the lawless section of our youth and to save the lives of the hundreds of children who are being shot and stabbed to death every year in the streets of our cities until the



profit is taken out of supplying them with weapons.

The department store catalogues, mail-order lists and novelty store windows all display — ready for sale to anyone — hunting knives which attach to a kid's belt by a "fast release" press stud. These knives first came on public sale when the Japanese had been driven out of most of the Pacific islands. There was then no pretense that these weapons had been made for hunting or skinning. Frankly and unashamedly, they were offered to anybody who could raise \$2, and they were openly sold as instruments meant for killing Japanese or other men.

In so bawling a nation as ours it was too much to hope that youngsters already imbued, after the nation's years at war, with the belief that hand-to-hand combat with heavy knives was something manly and romantic would cease to regard killing as a heroic act. The transition from reverence for those who killed the military enemy to emulation of the killing of child rivals is terribly easy. Our impressionable youngsters, seeing these deadly weapons in the store windows

of every city and hamlet in the land, can hardly be blamed for associating both the knives and their selves with the adventures of bloody warfare.

When these knives first came on sale, we expressed the fear that they would lead to bloodshed. That they have done so is attested by every police blotter in the nation. The people responsible for their sale — and for their manufacture — ought to be arrested and indicted for contributing to juvenile delinquency. We know it would be hard to secure convictions, for ours is a nation of "apertures" and a knife can truly be used in the chase. But every child who has thrust one of these blades into the flesh of another has obtained its status and there a sporting goods counter or from somebody who first bought it there.

We mothers should demand of the police authorities in every state and city that if there is no federal law forbidding the sale of dangerous weapons, then local and state laws should be enforced. For those laws do exist. Every state has authoritative broad statutes which could be interpreted to make it almost impossible for wrong-doers to purchase weapons.

The truth is that it is extremely simple to buy a gun — almost any gun other than an "automatic weapon" — in every part of the United States. We learned the hard way just what this can lead to with children. A young boy standing on a New York street, corner sank to the sidewalk, a bullet through his back. He was dead, killed by a shot from a 22 rifle bought from a mail-order house by nine kids who had saved up their pocket money to buy the rifle jointly. They were using it in an open gun battle with a rival gang, fighting on the roof of New York's ornament houses. The boy who died was killed by a stray bullet, but that was mere accident. These children, kids only 11 and 13 years old, had fully intended to kill their fancied enemies.

It would be wrong to suggest that all of our youths are growing up so mentally twisted as were these horribly mangled youngsters. But enough of them already have succumbed to this social disease of the worship of weapons for us to need to do something about it. How deeply they are infected is shown by the slimness of the causes that lead to these child murders. One boy, for example, stabbed his friend to death in an argument over whose mother was the better cook.

Under normal conditions, these children might have swung their fists, bloodied each other's noses — and then would promptly have forgotten all about it. But they have succumbed to this social disease of the worship of weapons for us to need to do something about it. How deeply they are infected is shown by the slimness of the causes that lead to these child murders. One boy, for example, stabbed his friend to death in an argument over whose mother was the better cook.

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It may be argued that soundly nurtured children would not resort to murder even if weapons were available. Let us grant the argument, although we don't believe it. All that follows, then, is that many of our children are not soundly nurtured. They have been so thoroughly all the more urged to keep weapons out of their hands. Mothers, this is something you can write to your Congressmen about.

OPEN THE DOOR,
RICHARD!



SOUTHWEST

MEYER PERLSTEIN, Southwest Regional Director

NLRB Sustains ILG in Sidran Election Tally

Union standards and benefits for workers in two plants in the Southwest District are at stake in recent cases before the National Labor Relations Board in which the ILGWU is seeking representation rights.

In Washington, the NLRB on Jan. 10 denied an appeal by the Sidran Garment Co., Dallas, Tex., seeking to set aside the results of the election in its plant at Brownwood, Tex., in which the workers chose the ILGWU as their collective bargaining agent. According to a revised tally, the union received a majority of the ballots of the workers eligible to vote. In accordance with the long-standing rule of the NLRB, this finding settles the issue and indicates that the case is closed.

As soon as the Southwest District was notified of the decision, it forwarded a request to the Sidran management to confer with union representatives for the purpose of negotiating an agreement.

Grace Garment Maneuver
At an NLRB hearing on Jan. 30, attorneys for the Grace Garment Co., Clinton, Mo., raised vigorous objections to the union's application for the holding of an election by the workers.

Among the claims advanced by the Grace lawyers were assertions that the union's application was filed on Nov. 11 while on Nov. 14 a firm entered into an agreement with what they described as an "independent" union; that the Clinton shop should be considered as one unit along with another plant in Belton, Mo., inasmuch as social activities, such as picnics and Christmas parties, have been held jointly by the workers of both plants.

As the hearing progressed, union spokesmen established the fact that the firm had sponsored parties and picnics for the workers only after the ILGWU had launched its organizational drive in Clinton.

ST. LOUIS ILG SPURS CHEST X-RAY TESTS

Recent health care developments in the Southwest District include the provision of additional safeguards for ILGWU members in St. Louis, Mo., and Houston, Tex.

In St. Louis arrangements have been made with the City Health Department and Tuberculosis Society to give X-ray chest examinations to all members of the union. Offering its full cooperation, the union threw open its headquarters for the use of a staff of technicians to give X-ray equipment from Feb. 10 to 13. Moreover, the union called upon all employers to release their workers during working hours for the purpose of being examined. The union also instructed the shop chairmen to urge all workers to avail themselves of this opportunity to check up on their physical condition.

Houston Health Fund

In Houston the Joint Administration Committee of the Houston Health Fund conferred on Jan. 31, at which time Louis Kaplan, of the Gerson & Kaplan Co., was elected temporary chairman and Elizabeth Thompson, secretary of Local 214, was chosen secretary of the committee. Trustees include Alfred Naeff of the Atlas Dress Co., and Kenneth Camp for the union.

Arrangements have also been made for the Health Fund to open an account with the First National Bank of Houston.

Perlestein Stirred By ILG FDR Rites

Vice Pres. Meyer Perlestein has written the following comment to record his feelings during the "unforgettable hour" he spent at Hyde Park, N. Y., on Jan. 30 when the ILGWU unveiled a bust of Franklin D. Roosevelt at the entrance to the Roosevelt Memorial Library: "Listening to the moving words of Pres. DuRoi, meeting the members of the Roosevelt family and other dignitaries who were present, wandering through the Roosevelt Memorial Library, looking into the faces of several hundred members of our union gathered for the occasion and, finally, watching the unveiling of the bust as raindrops melted down the granite image of our late leader—throughout these proceedings, everyone felt the spiritual presence of a force in American life that will continue to move through our finest deeds in spite of the departure of its great exponent."

ILG's Credit Groups Report 1946 Assets

The various federal credit unions recently held annual meetings to consider their year-end financial reports. Among the features of these reports were the following:

The St. Louis ILGWU Credit Union reported assets of \$17,378 with outstanding loans to members at \$7,002.

The Kansas City ILGWU Credit Union reported assets of \$46,000 with outstanding loans of \$27,486.

The Minneapolis ILGWU Credit Union reported assets of \$9,941.

St. Louis, Chicago Shows Net Substantial Orders

Buyers for women's apparel outlets situated hurriedly between St. Louis and Chicago during the week of Jan. 27 when these markets staged their spring season showings. Both cities reported extremely high yielding results as substantial orders were placed.

According to general opinion expressed during the St. Louis men's garment market week, the major problem confronting the industry was not lack of orders but the continuing shortages of suitable priced fabrics.

Latest Link in ILGWU's Chain of Progress



Arrangements committee of Lang-Kohn Co., which planned recent installation ceremonies for newly chartered Local 473, St. Louis, Mo.

6 UNION CAMPAIGNS APPROACHING CLIMAX

Organizational drives at six plants in various parts of the Southwest District are reported to be approaching completion.

A conference for the unification of the new plant operated by the Forest City Manufacturing Co. in Charleston, Ind., was held on Jan. 24. Representatives of the Southwest District joined those of the Midwest District, which will service the shop, at the conference.

An agreement to cover the workers employed by the Henri Noel Co. in its plants at St. Louis and Columbia, Mo., is being negotiated by Nick Hummel and Grace Harlan, manager and assistant manager of the St. Louis Cotton Dress Joint Board.

At the John R. Hanson Manufacturing Co. union representatives are meeting with management spokesmen for the purpose of negotiating an agreement to cover the workers in the new plant operated by the firm in Macomb, Ill. The ILGWU General Office has issued a charter establishing Local 477 in Macomb.

A drive to organize two children's wear plants in Olathe, Kan., and Warrensburg, Mo., has been inaugurated, with Grace Speck in charge.

Maybe He's Practicing To Produce Parachutes

Myron Blumberg, owner of the Ladies Leader Garment Co., Minneapolis, is setting a fast pace for garment manufacturers in the Southwest. He uses his private plane to get around and his log-book shows that last week he hopped from Minneapolis to St. Louis to attend a conference on the training of personnel for scientific production management. No sooner was the conference over than he took off for Kansas City to investigate production techniques in the garment plants of that city.

Boost at Co-Ed, Melba Jean, Youthcraft and Teentowner

Substantial wage gains have been won by the Southwest District for several hundred workers in Missouri and Illinois as the result of renewal and "escalator" clause negotiations at the Co-Ed Frocks, Melba Jean Garment, Youthcraft and Teentowner shops.

The details of these negotiations are as follows:

Co-Ed Frocks. The union has renewed its agreement with this firm covering the workers in the firm's plants at Mokena, Pa., Roodhouse and Winchester, Ill.

The agreements, which became effective on Feb. 1, provide for wage increases for time-workers and piece-workers, a second week of vacation with pay for those employed at least five years and higher minimums.

Negotiations were conducted by Dave Topper and Frank Rother of the Southwest District staff.

Melba Jean Garment Co. This firm, located at Bowling Green,

"Union Makes Us Strong"—and Gay



A merry party recently sponsored by Twin Cities' Joint Board, attended by officers of local, executive boards, shop chairmen and active members of all affiliated locals.

Squeezed Out of Paola City Quarters, Local 407 Members Grimly Bide Time

When Local 407, Paola, Kan., decided to vacate the quarters in the City Hall which they had been using as a meeting place, it led to a political crisis which has the city's public officials pretty worried.

Dorsa Lockout Case Going to Arbitration

Following refusal of the Dorsa Dress Co. to abide by an agreement reached by a joint mediation committee in the long-pending case involving a lockout dispute at the firm's plant in Cape Girardeau, Mo., the union has called upon the Board of Arbitration, set up under provisions of the St. Louis agreement, to issue a final ruling in the case.

The joint mediation committee was established after the St. Louis Dress Association had requested that the dispute be submitted to mediation. The committee, which met on Jan. 2, included representatives named by the association as well as a group designated by the union.

Their efforts were so successful that a number of other Paola organizations likewise decided to use the room and exerted political pressure accordingly. Local 407 refused to object to sharing the quarters until a conflict developed. Thereupon, the union spokesmen insisted on priority because of the example of the effort Local 407 had invested in making the room serviceable.

But the city officials suddenly chose to be so busy with other problems that the complaints of the union were ignored. Thereupon Local 407 quietly picked itself up and moved to other quarters. Negotiations to give the ILGWU members in Paola still know how to vote in the coming city elections. That's why the store-keepers are not very serene.

Youthcraft and Teentowner. The "escalator" clauses in the agreements with the Youthcraft Garment Co. and the Teentowner Coat Co., both of Kansas City, Mo., were invoked on Feb. 4 when the union forwarded requests to these firms for wage increases, improved vacation benefits and establishment of a health fund.

Southwest Shorts

A generous response to the recent "March of Dimes" appeal is reported from many sections of the Southwest District. In many instances employers joined with workers in setting new contribution records. An order of the example of this kind of cooperation occurred at the Gerson Garment Co., Kansas City, Mo. The ILGWU choral group of Winona, Minn., consisting of 25 members of Local 422, will be featured in a series of radio broadcasts to be sponsored by the Winona Trade and Labor Council. Irene Tingley, prominent choral teacher, is now rehearsing the group.

The ILGWU General Office has issued charters establishing Local 416 of Wellsville, Mo., and Local 479 of Trinidad, Col.

Eve Chaskey, Southwest District assistant director, will supervise a class recently started in this subject by Local 523, Waterloo, Ill.

David Frelitz was again installed as president of the St. Louis Association of Women's Garment Manufacturers at its annual meeting on Feb. 1.

"Training for Union Service"

(The following article by Mark Starr, ILGWU educational director, was published in the current issue of the Workers Education Bureau News Letter under the title "Training for Union Service.")

"During the New Deal decade, 1933-43, the phenomenal growth of the ILGWU presented the problem of acquainting young Americans with the methods and ideals of progressive trade unionism. Like all good workers' education, this began in mass membership meetings. Educational talks were given. Songs and skits were created and used on the picket line and in strike meetings. Later, the technique of successful collective bargaining and of cooperation with intelligent manufacturers was studied. Union members were developed as shop chairmen, as business agents and union officers, paid and unpaid. This practical emphasis upon immediate problems was not allowed, however, to exclude a study of the larger aims of the labor movement.

"The steady and intelligence of the union has for 30 years made large-scale resort to strikes unnecessary. Thus a great deal of constructive work has been released to deal with shop problems, increased productivity and new work methods, and also to develop the welfare activities of the union itself. This, of course, changes the climate of union educational activity but increases the need for intelligent understanding and participation of the union member in the life of his organization.

Welcoming New Members

"Now, as soon as a member joins the union, he is sent from central headquarters or from his local union the 'Welcome' leaflet. This describes, partly in pictures, what the union has done in its 46-year career against the sweatshop. The Kansas City Joint Board has a supplementary form letter which it sends to every new member explaining exactly what it costs to belong to the union and the benefits available, and describing the union meetings and introducing the union officers. The next stage in the initiation of the member is a small illustrated 13-page pamphlet, 'Meet the ILGWU'.

"The use of the printed word is supplemented by classes for new members and by scholarships ranging from one-half to two-week institutes to the Trade Union Fellowships at Harvard for one year.

Trainee Union Officers

"In direct trade union training there are the Officers Qualification Courses which have been carried through since 1935. These were made compulsory by convention decision in 1937 for elective full-time officers who have not previously held office. These courses are de-

scribed in the pamphlet, 'ILGWU Training for Union Service,' available from the ILGWU Educational Department. To date, 300 members have completed this work. Some 60 students are taking the current course in New York City. The Officers Qualification Courses include 'History of the Garment Industry' (six periods), 'Structure and Function of the Union' (six periods), 'Trade Union Technique' (12 to 15 periods) and 'Parliamentary Law' (three periods). These 23 hours of work are the minimum course and can be extended. The students are given tests, copies of which are to be found in the pamphlet 'Training for Union Service.' They are expected to make 75 per cent of the possible attendance and to secure a 75 per cent rating in their examinations.

"This current emphasis upon the immediate needs of union training leads naturally to the larger vistas of the general labor movement and its aims for bettering the lot of the worker, in cooperation with all intelligent and social-minded elements of the community."

9 More ILGWU Get Officers' Sheepskin

In addition to the 20 graduates of the 1944-45 Officers Qualification Course whose completion of the required work has already been announced, nine more members have finished the course and are now eligible for election to full-time office in the ILGWU. Attendance at 75 per cent of the sessions and a grade of at least 75 on all tests was necessary to gain a passing mark. The additional graduates are:

Local 19—Albert Afterman, Harry Numbum and Neil Rosenblum; Local 22—Ray Yudin and Lena Vlesky; Local 44—Joseph Castelli; Local 46—Agnes Corvillo; and Thomas Termini; Local 82—Frances Cook.

Class Honors Starr

Mark Starr, ILGWU educational director, was presented with a wrist-watch by members of the Officers Qualification Course at the last meeting of the class in appreciation of his services during the four-month period of study. A spokesman for the group praised Starr for his "untiring efforts in helping us to complete our course to the full satisfaction of all concerned and for the interest and welfare of the union."

Eulogy for Ellen

Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education in the British Labor Government, died last week. Upon hearing the news, Franklin D. Roosevelt, secretary of the ILGWU Educational Department, recorded his sincere grief in the following eulogy: "It is difficult to believe that Ellen Wilkinson is gone."

"How well do I remember her visit to America in 1930, when I had the privilege of assisting her in raising funds for the striking British miners. How well do I remember her ironical determination in refusing to accept defeat in the face of overwhelming odds!"

"Ellen Wilkinson's sudden and untimely death is a severe loss to the labor movement, but it contains also an element of deep personal tragedy. For years and years she looked forward to the highest in the world of labor achievement. She achieved that goal, but the journey was too short."

"She was confident, as she stated in a recent letter to me, that the educational program of the Labor party would be realized despite difficulties. The realization of this program, to provide educational opportunities to all workers' children and to raise the school age, will be the finest monument the labor movement may erect for Ellen Wilkinson."

ILG Student Fellowship To Analyze UN Outlook

Members of a committee of the ILGWU Student Fellowship who attended a recent all-day conference sponsored by the American Association for the United Nations in the subject "The United Nations in 1947," will report on the findings at a meeting of the Fellowship on March 3 at 6:30 P.M.

An additional feature of the program will be the showing of the Student Fellowship film entitled "Marching Toward Tomorrow," which was made over a year ago and contains shots of a number of Fellowship members. Plans for the next reunion will be presented by the Arrangements Committee, and suggestions for a forthcoming panel discussion will be taken up. The Fellowship meets at ILGWU headquarters, 1715 Broadway, New York City.

ILG Revising Song-Book—Suggestions Welcome

A new song-book is being compiled by the ILGWU Educational Department, and members wishing to submit songs for inclusion should send them in immediately.

Local 338, in Vandalia Demonstrates Value of ILG New Members' Courses

The special importance of new members' classes is highlighted by the steady growth in the ranks of the ILGWU. These classes have proven their value as a means of introducing ILGWU newcomers to the union's traditions and structure, with emphasis on the importance of each member's participation in union affairs.

Such classes have been successfully conducted by local 338 in smaller towns as well as in large cities. A good example of the functioning of a new members' class is provided by Local 338, Vandalia, Mo., where instruction and advice is given on a wide range of topics. The material is presented in the form of lectures followed by discussion periods.

The following outline indicates the scope and development of the new members' class conducted by Local 338:

- Why We Need a Union:
 - Higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions.
 - Control of overtime.
 - Workers' representation in industry.

- Self-criticism:
 - Enforcement of labor legislation.

- Security through sick benefits, credit unions, etc.

- Leisure activities through educational programs.

- Union Members' Duties in Shop:
 - Cooperation with other workers and shop chairmen.

- Take all complaints to chairman.

- No overtime without union permission.

- No home work.

- No work for less than scale.

- Share work.

- Attend shop meetings.

- Bring problems to union instead of gossiping about them.

- Union Members' Duties in Local:
 - Attend and participate in local meetings.

- Pay dues, assessments and other fees promptly.

- Understand distribution of dues.

- Union Members' Privileges and Protection:
 - Complaints handled on three levels—first, shop chairman; second, business agent; finally, local members.

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KNOW YOUR CITY

Saturday Visits to Points of Interest

Feb. 22 at 2 P.M. Frances' Tavern, Broad and Pearl Sts. (Tues. 7th Ave. subway to Pearl St. Station.) Route of George Washington's farewell to his army after the Revolutionary War.

March 1 at 2 P.M. Fox Moviehouse, Union Station, 400 West 54th St., between Ninth and Tenth Aves. Conducted tour showing how movies are made.



Rose Stein (center), head of Women's Brigade, discusses group's plan with leading members at meeting on Feb. 10.

CUTTERS LOCAL 10

ISIDORE NAGLER, Manager

All Members Must Participate in Elections

This is the season for nominations and elections in our union. There is the usual haste and bustle of campaign activity, the issuance of pronouncements, the clash of claims and counter-claims. They have familiar earmarks. We have experienced many such episodes in our long history. These are the very stuff and substance of our democratic way of life. However rough and bumpy-bumpy government may seem—especially from the smoothly engineered totalitarian product—it is nevertheless preferred by those who value human freedom above everything else.

And so, on Feb. 24, Local 10 will hold a special meeting to be followed by the elections on March 15. This year's election is particularly important. The return to a buyers' market in the apparel trades means that the lush war years are over and that employers may stiffen their resistance to union standards and conditions. Intelligent and responsible leadership will be necessary to guide our union through the uncertain period ahead to maintain the gains of the workers and protect their welfare.

Every member is duty-bound to participate in the nomination and election of officers. The security of his job, wages and working conditions and his economic well-being in general are, to a large extent, directly bound up with the ability of his elected representatives to guide the organization, to negotiate agreements and to cope successfully with new problems as they arise.

Democracy vs. Domination

Every cutter has a responsibility to his union to do his part to insure proper leadership. The welfare of an organization is the concern of each and every member.

Too often democracy is sacrificed to minority domination through the apathy or indifference of those who take the duties of citizenship too lightly. The only sure way to protect free, honest and democratic unions from their enemies is through an informed, intelligent and wide-awake membership, actively taking part in the affairs of the organization and ever ready to spring to its defense against attacks from any quarter.

In weighing the claims of opposing groups, members should object to the aid of experience, knowledge and common sense. There is no better way to separate truth from propaganda, and to distinguish responsible elements from irresponsible groups.

The nominations and elections in Local 10 will be conducted in strict accordance with the constitution. The votes will be counted fairly and impartially by an election board elected by the membership.

In recent years, our union has

ATTENTION Members LOCAL 10

Nomination and Special Meeting

Monday,
Feb. 24, 1947
Right After Work
MANHATTAN
CENTER
34th St. & 8th Ave.

made great strides in improving wage standards, establishing vacation and health funds, a retirement fund in the cloak trade, strengthening the organization and upholding its great tradition as part of the progressive movement. These accomplishments must be maintained—but let us bear in mind that they are only milestones on the road to further progress.

Stulberg Heads Local 62

Every member of Local 10 will join in tendering hearty good wishes to Louis Stulberg who has been nominated to succeed the late Vice Pres. Samuel Shore as manager of Local 62, Undergarment Workers, one of the largest affiliates of the ILOUW. Louis Stulberg, a manager of Local 13, Stulberg rendered outstanding service to our organization and was highly regarded by the membership. During the past year and a half, he headed the important organizational activities of the ILOUW.

Local 62 is truly fortunate to have as its new helmsman one who is fully qualified to carry on the great work of Samuel Shore.

CLOAK LOCAL 117

GEORGE RUBIN, Manager

Union Democracy in Action

The next ILOUW national convention—the 26th of its kind—will be held in June at Cleveland, Ohio, and all affiliates have received instructions to prepare for the election of delegates. The Cloak Department locals have received this call and are completing arrangements to choose the most suitable representatives in their ranks for the privilege and responsibility of serving their union at this all-important convention, the first since the end of the war.

In accordance with the provisions of the ILOUW Constitution, the convention delegates will be elected at the same time as officers are named by each local. The period designated for these contests is between Feb. 15 and March 15. Aside from the natural interest aroused among the membership by the elections, the issues brought up in the course of the election discussions have always proved highly instructive, particularly among the newer members. It is an occasion in which our union takes special pride because it is a conclusive demonstration of democracy actually and freely at work.

3 More Shops Signed

Despite the fact that there has been something of an industrial lull in our territory, the Cloak Department has continued its steady organizational progress. Within recent weeks three new shops were brought into the union fold by joining their employer associations.

These shops employ 120 workers, all of whom automatically receive the full benefits provided in the union's master agreement.

The three new shops are the Victory City Coat Co., Parkside, N. J.; the Covin Coat Co., Red Bank, N. J.; and the Loring Manufacturing Co., Westfield, N. Y.

Wiping Out Non-Unionism

In organizing the Victory City Coat Co., the Cloak Department scored an important triumph. This firm, a New York jobber, had been recognized for a number of years. In addition, Parkside, where the firm operates its shop, has been a persistently anti-union community. But the workers were subjected to substandard conditions and the union planned its attack carefully. Within a short time a majority of the workers had signed membership cards, wherever they were employed to elect a shop committee and shop chairman. However, when the workers' notice of these actions was delivered to the firm, it not only refused to recognize the union, but also refused its labor rights, the workers then walked out and established a picket line. At that point the union stepped into the situation and declared a strike. The employer still has not returned to work after four days of steady picketing, the firm knew the game was up.

The Cloak Department is prepared to teach the same lesson wherever it turns up, to be sure, but it is not so hasty. The goal remains 100 per cent unionization of our territory.

LOCAL 23 SCHEDULES MARCH 13 ELECTION

Rules to govern the elections of Local 23, Skirts-makers, were adopted at a membership meeting at the Rand School on Jan. 28. The elections, which are scheduled for March 13, will be preceded by discussions to be made on Feb. 18 at the Hotel Diplomat, at which time a Local 23 election and objections committee will be set up. At stake are the posts of manager, business agent, delegates to the ILOUW convention and members of the executive board and health and vacation fund committee.

Raising a demagogic mobscene, so-called "Communists" were obviously under Communist guidance, attacked the bloc system of voting on the ground that it impeded the development of a sense of unity among the membership. These charges were refuted by Sam Gold who pointed out that it was this self-same group which had been the first to organize a bloc, first to call meetings and first to elect a chairman. Joseph Frank, Local 23 president, said that the bloc system had demonstrated itself to be as essential to union democracy as political parties were to community elections.

When the bloc system proposal, which had formed one of the recommendations of the executive board, was submitted to the membership, it was overwhelmingly approved, as were the other recommendations of the executive board.

Health Fund Report

The meeting also heard a report of the Local 23 health fund, presented by Chairman Joseph Frank, which indicated that \$65.69 had been expended between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1946, for the following benefits to members—75 surgical cases, 158 hospital cases, 412 sick cases, 12 cases of second-year illness and the distribution of 891 certificates for treatment of members at the Union Health Center.

Cloak Jt. Bd. Health Fund Moves into New Building

The Health and Vacation Fund of the Cloak Joint Board has moved its offices to 24 West 38th St., the building recently purchased by the Cloak Joint Board. It is announced by Harry Krugman, manager of the fund.

N. Y. CLOAKMAKERS

'ILG Democracy Means Vote By All Members'-Cloak Jt. Bd.

The officers of the New York Cloak Joint Board and the managers of its affiliated locals have called for a 100 per cent turnout by the membership on the designated election days in the various locals.

"Democracy, whether in the political arena or in a trade union, demands full and active participation by its adherents; else it ceases to be the reflection of majority will and becomes a tool manipulated by minorities seeking to impose their will on all," General Manager Israel Feinberg warned. "We urge every member to go to the local polls on the appointed election days," he added.

Not all local election dates have yet been determined. All locals have held their nomination meetings except Local 23, which has scheduled its nomination meeting for Feb. 18.

The following locals have set their election dates:

Local 11—March 11.

Local 35—March 11.

Local 46—Feb. 18.

Local 117—March 11.

Local officers and delegates to the ILOUW convention are to be elected. Further election information may be obtained at local offices.

Local 48 Balloting All Set for Feb. 19

Members of Local 48, Italian Cloakmakers, will vote for local officers and ILOUW convention delegates on Feb. 19. It is announced by Manager Edward Molinari.

Voting will be by bloc system and members will choose from among 102 candidates, of whom 79 are on the Union League slate which reflects the policies of the present administration.

Balloting will take place at the following centers—Local 48 headquarters, the Borough Park Labor League, the American Federation of Labor and the Brownsville union office.

Local 82 Signing Up Brooklyn Territory

The results of the current organizational drive in the Brooklyn territory conducted by Local 82, Examers, were presented by Manager Charles Bernstein at a special membership meeting last month at Cloak Joint Board headquarters. He reported that a considerable number of recruits were entering the union in that area.

Bernstein also gave the annual financial report of Local 82, revealing a substantial surplus in the treasury. He indicated that various labor and humanitarian causes had received generous donations during the course of the year.

LOCAL 117 APPROVES BLOC VOTE SYSTEM

The bloc system of voting, recommended by the executive board of Local 117, Cloak Operators, was overwhelmingly approved at a membership meeting of the local on Feb. 6 at the Manhattan Center. The elections are to take place on March 11.

Acting to assure a completely democratic and honest election, the executive board made the following proposals, all of which were adopted by the membership:

Polling places are to be set up in Manhattan, in Williamsburg and in Brownsville. Clerks are to be assigned to handle all ballots and count them. Registration books are to be used and members must bring their union books to identify themselves. The opposition is to have

watchers at the polls and at the vote tally. The OGB is invited to oversee the election. The bloc system is to be used.

As a means of facilitating an orderly count of votes at the membership meeting, the audience in Manhattan Center was subdivided into sections, with counters from each of the opposing groups. The Communist-sponsored "rank-and-file" group was opposed under a 3-to-1 vote and none of its members secured a place on the local 117 election and objections committee.

Rubin Zuckerman, chairman of the local, presided at the meeting.

Local 9-Office Manager Back After Long Illness

Jacob M. Rosenblatt, office manager of Local 9, Cloak Finishers, for nearly 28 years, was welcomed back to duty last week after an absence, due to illness, since last July.

Token of Faith and Fraternity



In behalf of Pres. Dubinsky, Vice Pres. Israel Feinberg (right) accepts medal presented by Marc Somerhausen, member of Belgian Parliament, as mark of Belgian Socialist Party's gratitude for conspicuous services to that nation's war orphans. Presentation was made at recent Jewish Labor Committee convention.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LABORS GARBMENT WORKERS UNION

LABOR PUTS IN AN ANSWER

Tension in Washington mounts as the hearings on the top-priority anti-labor bills unwind themselves before the Labor Committees in both houses of Congress.

A wave of uneasiness, mixed with curiosity bordering on speculation, is fanning out from the Washington committee rooms to every nook and corner of the land. People are asking: how far will the Republicans, abetted by a group of Democratic Tories, go in striking at organized labor? Will they adopt "whole hog" tactics and try to outlaw the closed shop, restrict industry-wide bargaining, recast the Wagner Act in the NAM image, and legislate into being special labor "mediation" boards with coercive "court martial" powers—or will the Republican high command, with Senator Taft in the driver's seat, choose to detour from the Clare Hoffman-Joe Ball-Charles Wilson "get-labor" line to cook up a milder stew from the forty-odd anti-labor measures already cluttering the Congressional hopper?

From the first day of the opening of the 80th Congress, dubbed the first "businessman's Congress" in fourteen years, a great many observers and press oracles have also been wondering what labor's attitude would be towards this sweeping anti-union crusade which has emerged out of the counting of the ballots last November. Will labor meet the attack without giving ground in the slightest degree, or will it retreat a few steps, if only to break the headlong force of the onslaught?

The last two weeks have supplied more than a cue to labor's stand. It came, first, in the announcement by President Truman on Feb. 1 of a labor-management agreement in the building trades affecting some 2,000,000 wage-earners. This pact, following right behind the agreements reached by the CIO Steelworkers' Union and the CIO Rubber Workers' Union with the U. S. Steel Corp. and the U. S. Rubber Co., respectively, was hailed by the President as "good labor news" and as a "step forward in industrial relations."

More than that, Mr. Truman's announcement sounded like a hefty smack in the faces of the labor-baiters in Congress and their more rabid henchmen in industry who would discard the time-honored and dependable ways of collective bargaining in favor of a policy of union-hate and labor restriction.

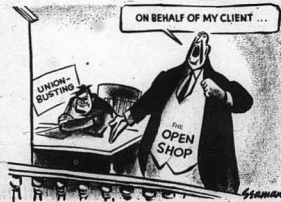
Five days later, a statement from the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor summed up in two carefully considered paragraphs its official attitude on the proposed labor curbs. Said the resolution:

"The American Federation of Labor has opposed and will continue to oppose all legislation, either Federal or State, that disturbs, menaces or destroys its free status; that limits free collective bargaining; that erects legal barriers to stop the economic and social progress of all workers gainfully employed; that makes the legislative representatives of the people a police patrol for employing and financial interest.

"The executive officers of the AFL are instructed to decry, oppose and fight such projected legislation in the name of all the members of the AFL; they are authorized to utilize all the facilities and resources of the AFL and to enlist the cooperation of all the affiliated unions and their membership in such effort."

This sweeping rejection of the whole kit and caboodle of Tory venom embodied in the current drive on labor, however, gives only the merest outline of the defensive policy the trade union movement is shaping up. It, nevertheless, serves notice on those legislators who would, at this hour of crisis, become a "police patrol" for hardboiled, anti-union elements in industry and finance, that they will be met with stiff, relentless opposition from the millions in labor's organized army.

Back at the Old Stand



Pins & Needles

YOU could excoriate pretty nearly all the verbiage currently being used by the proponents of higher rents on dwellings within the frame of the single lawsuit: "Pity, oh, pity the poor landlord!" Backed by both open and covert GOP support, the realtors' lobby, the biggest and best-oiled gang of gunbustors that's all Washington, in a generation, has been instrumental in offering up a flock of tenant-molesting bills, some demanding a 15 per cent rent rise, others calling for a graduated 5 per cent per cent four months for 16 months, and some clamoring for a complete decrystallization by the April 1.

At the moment, it is beginning to look as if the GOP, picking the wrath of veterans, of labor and of all other low-income groups, is ready to give the realtors the green light. For the Democrats, Senators Wagner and Murray are countering with a bill to continue rent control without an increase for another year beyond June 30. The two liberal Senators challenge the assertion that rent increases would stimulate the production of houses; it would, on the other hand, they assert, stir up industrial strife and add to the hardships of all wage-earners.

The death of Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education in the British Labor cabinet, removes from the workers' movement one of its most dynamic and colorful figures.

"Wee Ellen," as she was lovingly referred to by her countless admirers in Great Britain, had earned a unique place in contemporary labor history. In her day she fought for woman's suffrage, for workmen's rights, for the unemployed, and for Spanish Loyalism. No figure in English public life was more fiercely anti-Fascist, anti-Nazi and anti-appearance than Ellen Wilkinson.

No one who ever met her, as labor organizer, as member of Commons, or in the trenches of Madrid during the Spanish Civil War, could ever forget the amazing amount of energy and zeal, gaiety and vivaciousness compressed into the wee figure of 4 feet 9 inches!

SOME smart alces are still busy seeking out "traps" behind the AFL offer made early this month to the CIO for a real, organic unification of the labor movement. The AFL, these crack-brain strategists opine, had known damned well that the CIO could not or would not merge with it and had merely put its rival "on the spot." The fault with this type of reasoning is that it totally overlooks the fact this merger proposal is not anything new with the AFL, that it was born practically at the same time the CIO was born, and it is, in reality, part of AFL basic policy.

Whether or not, in making this offer for real unity now, the AFL leaders were hopeful of a CIO acceptance, unimportant guesswork. It is entirely too cynical, however, to sneer this offer with a coat of "insincerity." We'd rather savor with CIO President Green's statement in which he declared: "We offer it to all sincerely. . . . We have learned through experience that a divided movement does not serve a situation such as arises now. . . . The need for unity is greater now because we are being attacked by a pretty united force."

Judge Picard's reversal of his own decision in the Mount Clemens Pottery portal-to-portal case may have gladdened the hearts of all penny-grubbers in American industry and their subservient politicians in Congress, but it sure has not cast a glowing halo over our Federal bench.

One cannot, somehow, escape the feeling that the agonized shrieks

emanating from the many firms involved in the multi-billion portal pay suits may have helped to clear Judge Picard's vision regarding what was unpaid overtime only a few months ago and what is "picky-picky, meager" make-ready time-pay right now.

The Judge makes clear, nevertheless, that not all portal pay suits should be dismissed. He would rather have the whole matter appealed to and decided by the Supreme Court. Some gentlemen in Congress, perhaps, would do best to halt at that point, too. Not even the most rabid anti-laborite amongst them, indeed, could hope to enact a law that would compel an American worker to put in extra time without being paid for it!

LABOR is bending toward Socialism," reads a headline over an account of a bull session at the Conference of American Mayors in Washington, in which William Green, AFL president, and Charles E. Wilson, General Motors president, were the leading debaters.

Green, like Wilson, does not relish the thought of American labor turning to Socialism, even of the milder British pattern. But, he frankly told the 300 mayors in attendance, he could see nothing but the doom of "free enterprise" in sight if American industry built headlessly embarks on a policy of draconian anti-union laws. Wilson, on the other hand, could see salvation only in labor curbs, the freeing of wages, the banning of the closed shop and of industry-wide bargaining.

All this, and something new, the General Motors tycoon offered—by way of a threat. If the unions do not quit being "monopolistic," he said, industry will organize cartels. "Watch them, in order to preserve the profit system. We wonder how many of the more enlightened mayors present failed to crack a smile at this warning. We wonder how many of them paused to think that cartels would be the very bridge that would lead American industry toward nationalization, the spectre of which Mr. Wilson appears to dread so much.

"Russians Baited in Holiday Mood," reads an eye-catching caption over a Moscow press wire. "The polling places are decorated with the pictures of Stalin and Lenin and their statues are garnished with fluorescent lights. . . . Every effort is being made to beat last year's record when 99.7 of the electorate voted for the official state which consists of the 'Communist and non-party's people bloc.'" the cable goes on to explain.

Needless to add, there was only one "bloc," one slate, one party, one set of candidates—all en courrant with the Moscow concept of "democracy." Not a whimper of "Western" discord, not a whimper of multi-party disagreements marred last week's election over the vast spaces of "Matushka" Russia!

Poland, under Russian tutelage, also turned up with an "unfettered" election last week which polled 84 per cent of the total vote for the totalitarians. This is, perhaps, not as good a record as Moscow's—but you just wait. Give the Warsaw scrub-team, say, another half-dozen years and you may rest assured, they will come up with a round 100 per cent or better—in a perfect holiday mood!